



The View

August 2024

Granite Peak
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
882 Sunset Avenue
Prescott, AZ 86305
(928) 541-0000
<http://www.prescottuu.org>

Worship : All worship services are held at 10:00 am, unless otherwise noted. Join us on ZOOM or in-person for the Sunday Service. Please see the Weekly Peak for updates.

August 4, Rev. Marlin Lavanhar (on video) *The Magnet of Our Faith.*

Rev. Lavanhar asks if our lives matter or if they are just a big nothingburger. The values of our impressive UU ancestors paved the way for our modern thought and reasons why we are attracted to the flame of UUism.

August 11, Rev. Doug Bland: *Is Arizona a Battleground?*

Rev. Doug Bland asks, "Was theologian and biblical scholar, Walter Wink, right in saying, *“The dominant religion on the planet is not Christianity, Hinduism, Islam or Judaism (or Unitarian Universalism) but the pervasive faith that violence will save us?”* Doug visited Northern Ireland with faith leaders and politicians from “battleground” states and will share what he learned about their long civil war and peace process. Doug is a retired pastor of the Community Christian Church in Tempe. (For more on the Northern Ireland visit and Doug, see page 3.)

August 18, Susan Lang: *Writing as a Spiritual Practice.*

Could Susan Lang’s fiction writing process be considered a spiritual practice? Join us as Susan explores that intriguing question. Susan Lang grew up in the late 1940s, living in a small community in an isolated California desert canyon, where she attended a one-room schoolhouse. Susan married young, had five kids by age 23, and managed to gain admission to UC Riverside at age 28, on a scholarship. With a lifetime love of poetry and stories, Susan crafted five novels (and a memoir) that explore the natural world and human nature.

August 25, Ren Manning, Co-Director, Director of Education, BorderLinks Tucson: *Imagine Beyond Borders: Building Home Together.*

Globally, over 1 in 28 people are migrants. While many are forcibly displaced, migration is also a natural and beautiful part of being human. At the same time, we’re witnessing an onslaught of anti-immigrant hate and policy on a local and national scale. As we respond, how do we also build a shared long-term vision together of migrant justice? We will hear stories from community organizers from BorderLinks in Tucson about the ongoing realities of our borders and mass migrations. How do we meet this moment with courage, hope, and action?

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Our Covenant: Love is the doctrine of this congregation, the quest for truth its sacrament and service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge in freedom, to serve others in community, thus do we covenant together.

Introducing Rev. Roger Fritts...



Rev. Roger Fritts (“*please call me Roger*”) has been hired as Granite Peak’s Contract Minister for a year with an option to renew for a second year if needed. His first Sunday in the pulpit will be September 15, 2024.

What attracted Roger to come out of retirement in Maryland and come to Granite Peak in Prescott? He was born in Mesa, AZ in 1951 and grew up in a Phoenix Unitarian church. His mother, father, and three sisters loved their summers in Prescott where they had a second home not far from where PUUF now stands. He loves Prescott’s climate and, best of all, has a daughter who lives here and is helping with his transition to our area.

Following his graduation from Arizona State University in 1973 he entered Starr King School for Ministry in Berkeley, CA. From there he served the UU Church of Lexington, KY before moving to First Unitarian Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts where he met and married his wife, Rev. Leslie Westbrook-Fritts who had been ordained as a UU minister five years before Roger’s ordination. They have three children.

During his 46 years in ministry, he has also served UU churches in Evanston, IL, Bethesda, MD, Media, PA, and is Minister Emeritus at the UU Church of Sarasota, FL.

Following a year of retirement, his wife Leslie encouraged Roger to go back to work “as work makes you more interesting.” It was good timing for Granite Peak when he learned that he might be able to return to his beloved Prescott...where he had made so many golden memories as a child while escaping the summer heat of Phoenix with his family.

Leslie will stay in their Maryland home where she is a practicing therapist. She and Roger were delighted to learn that she will be able to visit Prescott with easy flights from Maryland to Denver and from Denver right into Prescott.

Welcome to Granite Peak and Prescott, Roger. We look forward to our time with you!

From the President

Rick Denney



On Sunday, July 21, Karen and I awoke in our lightweight, 2-person backpacking tent at 12,200 feet in Spencer Basin in the Weminuche Wilderness north of Silverton Colorado. That was the last morning of our llama packing adventure that started just east of Durango twenty-seven days earlier.

That last morning, we hiked four miles and descended 2,200 feet to Cunningham Gulch, where the llama owners met us, drove the seven hours home, and incredibly, slept in our comfy beds that night. What a drastic change in the environment in a single day! How very fortunate we are to live in this part of the world!

As we reveled in our wilderness adventure, we often thought of our GPUUC community. So much has happened over the last few months in the life of our congregation. We lost our beloved minister Patty, and our incomparable music director Mary Lou. Many volunteers scrambled on very short notice to apply to the UUA for an interim minister.

Failing to find a match for an Interim, we were extremely fortunate to find an experienced and highly respected minister Rev. Roger Fritts who was not only willing but anxious to join us on a contract for at least one year starting in September. The hiatus in ministerial leadership over the summer has put considerable strain on our dedicated worship team, and we should all be thanking them profusely every Sunday for their hard work and excellent leadership.

We also can reflect with pride on the overwhelming congregational support for a major renovation/transformation effort for our GPUUC facility. Many volunteers have worked and are continuing to work tirelessly to move this project forward. Over the coming year, we will need creativity, imagination, and grit as we greet a new minister, begin the search for a settled minister, find a new music director, initiate a major capital campaign, and settle on a detailed plan that will determine the aesthetic and emotional appeal of our sacred space for years to come.

What an incredibly exciting time to be a member of GPUUC!



Please see the Weekly Peak, July 31 for the Board Buzz Article.

More on Doug Bland and the Northern Ireland Trip.

Rev. Doug Bland is the founder and former Executive Director of Arizona Interfaith Power & Light---a spiritual response to the climate crisis. He now serves as AZIPL Ambassador. As a new grandfather, he has yet another reason to care for the future of our precious planet home. He retired from the Community Christian Church in Tempe where he served as pastor for twenty-three years. The church's inter-religious and multi-cultural storytelling concerts earned the Diversity Award from the Tempe Human Relations Commission. He has served as adjunct faculty at the South Mountain Community College Storytelling Institute.

With a contentious national election on the horizon, as U.S. polarization is escalating and violence is being normalized, Doug recently joined 24 U.S. faith leaders and former politicians from six U.S. "battleground" states to see what we might learn from decades of The Troubles in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Sponsored by the Carter Center, the delegation met with city and government representatives, members of the Irish, UK, and U.S. governments as well as parties to the conflict, victims' family members, and civil society representatives. In his August 11 sermon, Doug will reflect on some of the lessons he drew from N. Ireland's decades-long civil war and the peace process that culminated in the Good Friday Peace Agreement.

Granite Peak Vision and Mission Statements

Vision: Where ALL are welcomed, encouraged and nurtured.

Mission: We are a compassionate spiritual community that:

- Celebrates diversity;
- Nourishes the personal and spiritual growth of all ages;
- Shares our gifts,
- Promotes justice for all; and
- Serves the world we live in.



The Forum

Zoom meetings are on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. We won't solve all the world's problems, but we will discuss them and learn from each other.

Contact Fred Kraps for "The Forum" information.
<https://zoom.us/j/524691598> (Password=Forum)

Men's Group: Interested in joining our Men's Groups here at GPUUC? Please contact Russ Erickson.



Annual Gathering of Women's Groups
 Inviting all GP women
 to the 'Davis Hall Lounge'

Come join us for Happy Hour

Saturday August 24 from 3:00-5:00 pm.

Interested in joining a Women's Group? Meet members of different women's groups, Get to know someone new, have some fun!

Contact Karen Hagberg or Rhea Batterman



Treasurer Report

Another fiscal year came to a close on June 30. Thanks to a rally in pledges and watching expenses in June, we ended the year with \$6718.32 of net operating revenue (revenue-expenses) that we will de-

posit into our Unanticipated Needs Fund. As you may recall, we were off our pledge goal by 8% in May, but we improved in June to reach 95% of our pledge goal. Thanks to fundraising efforts and your donations exceeding budget goals, we reached 99% of our revenue goal and only missed by \$1654. Because our expenses were under budget by 3% or \$8372, we made our budget overall with a \$ 6718 surplus. June's finance reports are on our website.

The More You Know.....

Each month I will try to include some information that may help members and friends understand our budget. This month I'd like to talk about your pledge. With the start of the new fiscal year, it is helpful to make sure you know how much you pledged this year. If you have forgotten or are not sure, please reach out to me or to Marianne Erickson. Remember, to save on transaction fees for us, checks are best, and it is most helpful to note "Pledge 24-25" in the memo field (unless you are sending in a late check for 23-24). If you pay your pledge quarterly or monthly, consider setting up auto-pay through your bank. We will be sending out quarterly pledge statements, and to help us reach our pledge goal in 24-25, we will add the balance due from your pledge commitment. Finally, remember that if your financial situation changes, you can decrease or increase your pledge by contacting me or Marianne Erickson.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracy Augustine, Treasurer,
GPUUC Board of Trustees

"Some people grumble that roses have thorns; I am grateful that thorns have roses."

Alphonse Karr



Care Team Note

The Care Team is establishing a list of those who would be willing to help members in need with meals, transportation, hospital or home visits, shopping, making calls or writing notes. A sign-up list is in Davis Hall following Sunday services. Please contact Care Team chair, Bobbie Bollinger, if you or a member is in need of these services.

Empty Bowls



Thank you to everyone who responded to our email request for volunteers! As of now we are full for all slots on the day of - Yay!! If you would still like to help, before or after the event, we have lots of ways you can contribute. Please reach out to Chris Hawthorne.



MahJong!

The Tuesday afternoon MahJong group is now meeting at 1:00 pm in Davis Hall and welcomes new members. If you're an experienced player, just drop in and join us. If you have never played, you may either drop in and learn by watching or call or email one of us for a private lesson. We're very happy to teach. Lila Witt.

Third (3rd) Wednesday of the Month in Davis Hall - We are looking for people to join the **Bridge Group.**



A commitment is required, no Drop Ins.
Please contact Bonnie Forte.



Immigration History Timeline Workshop - Tuesday, August 27

Join Ren Manning, as they continue a conversation on immigration through a timeline workshop that traces root causes of immigration and the impacts of border policy within the US over the past 500 years.

GPUUC, Davis Hall - 2pm - 4pm RSVP Kelsey Wilkes.

Pagan Gathering



**Saturday August 17.
11-12:30 pm
Faith Development**

We will continue our 2nd year of monthly gatherings with a more in-depth study of the Four Elements. What is their corresponding direction? How did this concept evolve? Are they the same across all cultures? What are the other correspondences for the directions and elements — colors, deities, animals, crystals, cycle of life...? And most importantly, what are their transformative properties; how can we use them to bring balance and energy to our lives?

Our first year was filled with learning, rituals, crafts, drumming, chants, and camaraderie, as we shared and explored together. Come join us.

The Kindred Spirits, the Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation (GPUUC) Chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) is an interfaith Pagan group sponsored by the Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

The mission of the Kindred Spirits is to connect UUs and Pagans of many different faiths in an inclusive, welcoming space. We celebrate our Earth-based faith traditions in harmony with our UU principles.

Adult Faith Development

By MaryAnn Clark



The Adult Faith Development Committee will be meeting in August to begin putting together our plans for 2024-25. Is there something you'd like to know more about? Or something you'd like to teach?

Let me know so I can consider it this year. Thanks, Mary Ann

August Birthdays

Last Name	First Name	Date
Eldridge	Peter	1
Hassenstab	Juanita	1
Bennett	Mary Fran	6
Ingraham	Edward	8
Krock	Miriam	8
Braswell	Barbara	10
Griffin	Julie	10
Garrett	Lydia	14
Erickson	Marianne	17
Carter	Walt	19
Kalmoe	Ron	25
Erdmann	Tom	29



Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios

June 30, 2024: Declaration of Independence

The students learned about how the Fourth of July, in the United States, celebrates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. Most of the delegates to the Second Continental Congress signed the document on August 2, 1776.



The students also watched an informative and historical video that gave them insight as to why we celebrate a day of independence in this country. They completed an art project using the first initial of their name using red, white, and blue tiles.

July 7, 2024: The Buddhist Toolbox



Today's lesson was provided by Ainslee. We discussed Buddhism's indriyas (senses) including a basic introduction to Buddhism. Topics included: Siddhartha Gautama, nontheism, the four noble truths, and the eightfold path. We explored the indriyas; faith, energy, mindfulness, immersion, and wisdom. The children thought of synonyms for these examples. Each chose an indriya and drew an example.

July 14, 2024: History of Buttons

Today's lesson was provided by Ainslee. The students talked about the history of buttons and wrote out a list of different ways that buttons can be used, such as to share access needs or support a justice movement.

Aleida made a button of her mother's favorite animal as a gift, and a memorial button for a past pet. Hoku-lani drew an earth in support of Earth justice and his love for the Earth.



July 21, 2024: I Am...

"I Am" was a unique way of helping the students identify who they are. Exploring with them ideas of getting to know themselves better, their interests likes and dislikes. Figuring out what is important for them in support of their beliefs and values. Taking time for yourself, to learn more about who you are without outside pressure and influence.



They listened to a song titled, "Who Am I?" which described different roles that we all can play in life. Afterward, the students created their own collages using pictures of things that they liked and things that described them as individuals.

Social Justice



The Social Justice Ministry Council will be meeting on **Thursday, August 8 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Faith Development Building. Those interested in finding out more about our work, or volunteering for some of our projects, are welcome to attend.

Just a reminder: we are in serious need of donations for the Food Pantry!

August Seeds of Support is Hungry Kids



MISSION: The Hungry Kids Project (HK) provides weekend food within four adjoining school districts: Prescott Unified School District (PUSD),

Humboldt Unified School District (HUSD), Chino Valley Unified School District (CVUSD), and Mayer Unified School District (MUSD).

AGENCY SELF-DESCRIPTION: School personnel identify the children who have little or no weekend food available to them. Volunteers pack and deliver food packs to the schools where staff distribute them to the identified children.

Contributions are used totally to purchase food for packs. Since pediatricians agree that hunger and malnutrition have a negative effect upon learning and brain development, the goal is to ensure each child can return to school on Mondays ready to learn.

See a Weed, Pick a Weed

All of us can keep up the beauty of our newly designed grounds by being weed pickers.

Stephen Lovejoy recently taught me, when I asked "Is that a weed?" that if it doesn't belong there its a weed. So, see a weed - pick a weed!

Kelsey Wilkes

Unitarian Universalist Values Adopted June 2024.



Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence. With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it.

We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice. We will work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.

Transformation. We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity. We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.

We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.